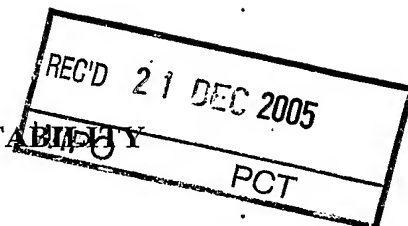


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 12500271	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416									
International application No. PCT/AU2004/001670	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30 November 2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 18 December 2003									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC											
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Int. Cl. B65G 17/00 (2006.01)</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Int. Cl. B65G 17/14 (2006.01)</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Int. Cl. B66B 9/10 (2006.01)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B61B 11/00 (2006.01)</td> <td>B65G 17/26 (2006.01)</td> <td>B66B 11/06 (2006.01)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B61B 12/10 (2006.01)</td> <td>B65G 17/38 (2006.01)</td> <td>B66B 15/02 (2006.01)</td> </tr> </table>			Int. Cl. B65G 17/00 (2006.01)	Int. Cl. B65G 17/14 (2006.01)	Int. Cl. B66B 9/10 (2006.01)	B61B 11/00 (2006.01)	B65G 17/26 (2006.01)	B66B 11/06 (2006.01)	B61B 12/10 (2006.01)	B65G 17/38 (2006.01)	B66B 15/02 (2006.01)
Int. Cl. B65G 17/00 (2006.01)	Int. Cl. B65G 17/14 (2006.01)	Int. Cl. B66B 9/10 (2006.01)									
B61B 11/00 (2006.01)	B65G 17/26 (2006.01)	B66B 11/06 (2006.01)									
B61B 12/10 (2006.01)	B65G 17/38 (2006.01)	B66B 15/02 (2006.01)									
Applicant MARTIN GESSNER PTY LTD et al											

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☒ (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29 August 2005	Date of completion of this report 7 December 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer ZBIGNIEW BIELAWSKI Telephone No. (02) 6283 2218

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001670

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:
- ☒ The international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ A translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-4 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of _____
- pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
- pages as originally filed/furnished
- pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* 5-6 received by this Authority on 29 August 2005 with the letter of 26 August 2005
- pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 1/4-4/4 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of _____
- pages* received by this Authority on _____ with the letter of _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

CLAIMS 1-11

None of the citations in the search report, individually or in combination, disclose the features of the claims. In particular none of them disclose a cable assembly which includes a generally tubular power transmission member with a coupling element operatively connected thereto, the coupling element being disposed between the end sections. Furthermore, none of the distinguishing features over prior art would either be obvious to a person skilled in the art or would merely amount to adding common general knowledge. The claims are, therefore, novel and inventive.

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CLAIMS:

1. A cable assembly suitable for use in a transmission mechanism which includes at least one wheel having recesses therein which the cable assembly passes at least partially around when in use, the cable assembly including at least one cable having end portions and a connector device for operatively connecting the end portions of the cable so as to form an endless track, the connector device including a power transmission member and a coupling operatively connecting the end portions of the cable to the power transmission member, the power transmission member being a generally tubular member having end sections receivable within the recesses in the wheel as the cable assembly passes therearound, the coupling including a coupling element operatively connected to the power transmission member between the end sections.
2. A cable assembly according to claim 1 wherein the or each wheel of the transmission mechanism is in the form of a sheave which has a plurality of grooves formed in the outer peripheral surface thereof, the grooves communicating with cavities in the outer peripheral surfaces, the recesses being disposed at the edges of the peripheral surface, the cable assembly further including a plurality of cables each being associated with a respective groove and cavity in the sheave.
3. A cable assembly according to claim 1 wherein each cable has end portions which are operatively connected together by the connector device so as to form an endless cable or track, there being, a plurality of connecting means arranged in spaced apart relation along the cable length.
4. A cable assembly according to claim 3 wherein the power transmission member is generally circular in cross-section.

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5. A cable assembly according to claim 4 wherein the end sections include rotatable bushes.
- 5 6. A cable assembly according to any preceding claims wherein the coupling is arranged so that the load applied to the power transmission member by the cable is in the region of the central axis of the power transmission member.
- 10 7. A cable assembly according to any preceding claim wherein the coupling element of the coupling includes a clevis secured to the outer surface of the power transmission member and a tongue on the ends of the cable which is operatively connected to the clevis.
- 15 8. A cable assembly according to claim 7 wherein the tongue is connected to the cable by swaging.
9. A cable assembly according to claim 8 including a pin for connection between the tongue and clevis.
- 20 10. A cable assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the coupling element of the coupling includes a plate mounted to said power transmission member for at least partial rotation relative thereto, said plate including one or more tongue portions and said coupling further including at least one clevis associated with a respective tongue portion said clevis being operatively connected to an end of the cable, the tongue being operatively connected to the clevis.
- 25 11. A cable assembly according to claim 10 further including retaining rings on the outer surface of the power transmission member to limit lateral movement of the plate.